

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 13 and 15 to 38 and add the following claims 39 to 64:

Claims 1 to 38 (canceled).

39.(new) An absorber pipe, especially for a parabolic collector in a solar heat collecting apparatus, said absorber pipe comprising

a central metal pipe (3);

a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2);

a glass-metal transitional element (5) on a free end of the glass sleeve tube; and

an expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slideable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between the free end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe;

wherein said expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11) and a connecting element (15, 15', 15''), said folding bellows (11) is arranged under the glass-metal transitional element (5), said folding bellows (11) extends into said annular space (4), said folding bellows (11) has an outside end (13) and an interior end (12), said interior end (12) being arranged within the

annular space (4), and said interior end (12) of said folding bellows (11) is connected to one end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15");

wherein another end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15") opposite to the one end connected to the folding bellows (11) is either connected to the central metal pipe (3) or to the glass-metal transitional element (5); and

wherein said folding bellows (11) and said connecting element (15, 15', 15") extend sufficiently into the annular space (4) and between the glass sleeve tube (2) and the central metal pipe (3), so that said glass-metal transitional element (5) is protected from radiation which would otherwise reach the glass-metal transitional element (5) after entering the glass sleeve tube (2).

40.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein the outside end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

41.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 40, wherein the connecting element (15, 15") extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (8) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the central metal pipe (3).

42.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 41, wherein the connecting element (15, 15") has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding bellows (11) and

said circular disk (16) goes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17, 18') extending through the first circular space (5).

43.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 41, wherein the connecting element (15,15") is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

44.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein the interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the connecting element (15') and by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

45.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said interior end of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the following bellows (11) and the sleeve tube (2).

46.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 45, wherein said connecting element (15') comprises a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

47.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

48.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 44, wherein the connecting element (15') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

49.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, further comprising another glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on another end of the glass sleeve tube (2) opposite from the free end of the glass sleeve tube (2) and another expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and said another glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other, so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between said another end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe.

50.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

51.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 39, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.

52.(new) A parabolic collector for a solar heat collecting apparatus, said parabolic collector comprising a longitudinally extending linear parabolic reflector (PR) having a focal line (FL) and at least one absorber pipe (1) arranged along said focal line;

wherein said at least one absorber pipe (1) comprises a central metal pipe (3), a glass sleeve tube (2) surrounding said central metal pipe (3) so that an annular space (4) is formed between the central metal pipe and the glass sleeve tube (2), a glass-metal transitional element (5) on a free end of the glass sleeve tube and an expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and the glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between the free end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe;

wherein said expansion compensating device (10) comprises a folding bellows (11) and a connecting element (15, 15', 15''), said folding bellows (11) is arranged under the glass-metal transitional element (5), said folding bellows (11) extends into said annular space (4), said folding bellows (11) has an outside end (13) and an interior end (12), said interior end (12) being arranged within the annular space (4), and said interior end (12) of said folding bellows (11) is connected to one end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'');

wherein another end of said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') opposite to the one end connected to the folding bellows (11) is either connected to the central metal pipe (3) or to the glass-metal transitional element (5); and

wherein said folding bellows (11) and said connecting element (15, 15', 15'') extend sufficiently into the annular space (4) and between the glass sleeve tube (2) and the central metal pipe (3), so that said glass-metal transitional element (5) is protected from radiation which would otherwise reach the glass-metal transitional element (5) after entering the glass sleeve tube (2).

53.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the outside end (13) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the glass-metal transitional element (5).

54.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 53, wherein the connecting element (15, 15'') extends from said interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) through a first circular space (8) formed between the folding bellows (11) and the central metal pipe (3).

55.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 54, wherein the connecting element (15, 15'') has a circular disk (16) attached to the folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a conical or cylindrical pipe-shaped section (17, 18') extending through the first circular space (5).

56.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 54, wherein the connecting element (15, 15'') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

57.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the interior end (12) of the folding bellows (11) is connected with the glass sleeve tube (2) by the connecting element (15') and the glass-metal transitional element (5).

58.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein the connecting element (15') extends from said interior end of the folding bellows (11) through a second circular space (9) formed between the following bellows (11) and the sleeve tube (2).

59.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 58, wherein said connecting element (15') has a circular disk (16) attached to said folding bellows (11) and said circular disk (16) goes over into a pipe-shaped cylindrical section (18) extending through said second circular space (9).

60.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein said glass-metal transitional element (5) is attached to an outer collar (19) formed on said connecting element (15').

61.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 57, wherein the connecting element (15') is provided at least partially with a mirror surface on a side facing said central metal pipe (3).

62.(new) The parabolic collector as defined in claim 52, wherein the at least one absorber tube includes another glass-metal transitional element (5) arranged on another end of the glass sleeve tube (2) opposite from the free end of the glass sleeve tube (2) and another expansion compensating device (10) connecting the central metal pipe and said another glass-metal transitional element (5) with each other, so as to be slidable relative to each other in a longitudinal direction and to guarantee a vacuum-tight seal between said another end of the glass sleeve tube and the central metal pipe.

63.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 52, wherein said annular space (4) is evacuated.

64.(new) The absorber pipe as defined in claim 52, wherein said annular space (4) is filled with a noble gas.